

A MANUAL OF CARDIOLOGY. By Thomas J. Dry, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., M.S. in Medicine—Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota (Mayo Foundation); Consultant in Section on Cardiology, Mayo Clinic. Second Edition—Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$5.00.

This is a sound, concisely and clearly presented synopsis of cardiology. It is well and simply written. The second edition has been thoroughly revised, especially the chapters on congenital malformations, electrocardiography as related to clinical problems, coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure and subacute bacterial endocarditis. Also, a chapter has been added on pregnancy, anesthesia and surgical operations in relation to organic heart disease.

The chapter on coronary heart disease is exemplary in the clarity of its discussion on the pattern of electrocardiographic changes in both classical and atypical types of myocardial infarction. The discussion and presentations relative to electrocardiography have stressed the Wilson unipolar precordial leads.

There are certain exceptions to the usually clear, concise presentation. Page 32, which introduces the chapter on specific features in diagnosis, could be compressed into its first paragraph plus a single additional sentence. The rest of the page is unnecessary and confusing. The definition of angina pectoris (page 38) could be clarified for the benefit of the general practitioner. Chapter 5, on alterations in cardiac size and cardiac contour, is developed well until it reaches its climax on page 71; there the author tells the reader that roentgenologic methods "supply by far the most accurate information"; but he neither adequately tells the reader how to fluoroscope the heart nor what to look for. On page 178, sulfadiazine and sulfathiazole are recommended for the prophylaxis of rheumatic heart disease; this is unfortunate in a volume of this caliber written in the year 1950.

The above criticisms are written as suggestions for a future revision and in no way detract from the reviewer's impression that this is an excellent book which can be highly recommended to practitioners and students alike for reference.

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THE ABNORMAL PNEUMOENCEPHALOGRAM. By Leo M. Davidoff, M.D., Director of Neurological Surgery, Beth Israel Hospital, New York City; Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery, New York University, Postgraduate Medical School; and Bernard S. Epstein, M.D., Associate Radiologist, The Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn, and Instructor in Clinical Radiology, Long Island College of Medicine. 695 illustrations. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$15.00.

This volume deals with the abnormal pneumoencephalographic findings, seen in association with various intracranial pathological conditions in infants, children and adults.

The entire subject is presented in a straightforward, clear and concise fashion, with illustrations to demonstrate the various points under discussion. This includes case histories and illustrations of postmortem specimens.

The book is divided into three sections.

In the first part of the first section the authors discuss the relative frequency of the various types of tumors of the brain and their histological characteristics.

The last part of this section deals with the particular characteristics of intrinsic and extrinsic tumors involving the various regions of the brain. Each region is discussed in detail, presenting the clinical picture, a review of the literature and the authors' material. Under the latter heading the following points are discussed: (1) relative value of the plain roentgenograms, (2) pneumoencephalographic findings and the interpretation of such, (3) presentation of representative case histories, (4) a summary of the findings

and differential diagnosis. All phases are adequately discussed and illustrated, leaving nothing to one's imagination.

The second section is headed "Non-neoplastic Tumors." In this section, as well as in the first, the authors follow the same general principles of presentation. Under this heading are included such conditions as chronic subdural hematoma, brain abscess, syphilis of the brain, vascular anomalies of the brain, cerebral hemorrhage and thrombosis. All points are adequately discussed and illustrated.

The third section, designated as "Non-tumorous Lesions of the Brain," forms a most interesting part of the volume. The following subjects are discussed in the same fashion as those in the other sections: (1) Cerebral atrophy. (2) Agenesis of the corpus callosum. (3) Platybasia, Arnold-Chiari malformation, meningoencephalocele and craniolacunia. (4) Congenital hydrocephalus; amaurotic family idiocy. (5) Optic chiasm and posterior fossa arachnoiditis. (6) Serous meningitis. (7) Encephalitis, encephalopathies and rare infections of the nervous system. (8) Tuberculous sclerosis.

As a result therefore, the book will be of value and is recommended to those primarily interested in this subject, namely the neurological surgeon, the neurologist and the roentgenologist, as well as the graduate student in these various fields. In addition it will form an excellent reference book for the psychiatrist, pediatrician and internist.

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASES. Edited by Roscoe L. Pullen, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Graduate Medicine, Director of the Division of Graduate Medicine and Vice-Dean of the School of Medicine, Tulane University. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$20.00.

This new book by Dr. Pullen and 52 contributors is the most inclusive and largest of modern textbooks on communicable diseases. In addition to the common infectious diseases included in most similar texts are chapters on many of our less common diseases, including contagious diseases of the skin and eyes, and numerous tropical diseases.

The all-inclusiveness of the text contributes to one of its shortcomings; namely, relatively brief coverage of some of the more important infections. Generally speaking, however, coverage is adequate for most purposes. The factual information contained is, for the most part, quite accurate and generally accepted. Certain statements, however, seem unfortunate to the reviewer. Some of these have to do with the unavoidable delay between compilation and publication during which time older remedies have been discarded and newer ones have replaced them. In such a category are the treatment of scarlet fever with sulfonamides, the use of vaccine in the treatment of pertussis, and the mandatory use of antiserum in meningitis due to *H. influenzae*.

Other shortcomings include too brief a discussion of the differential diagnosis of diphtheria, lack of mention of mumps meningoencephalitis without sialadenitis, and the statement that Koplik spots disappear when the exanthem erupts.

More than compensating for the comparatively minor deficiencies mentioned are excellent discussions of a large number of infectious diseases. The method of presentation is very satisfactory. The illustrations vary from fair to excellent.

Because of the size and expense of the volume it will probably not be as favored by students as many of the briefer texts, but it fills quite adequately the need for a reference text for anyone having more than passing interest in the problems of communicable disease. The reviewer recommends it highly to general practitioners, internists, pediatricians and public health officers as the most complete modern text available on the subject.